

# COVID-19 Vaccine: Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) After First Dose Vaccination Among Frontliners in Alor Gajah District, Melaka

Siti Nur Afiqah binti Zolkepli, Bpharm<sup>1</sup>, Noorazlinda bt Yacob, MSc<sup>2</sup>, Ahmad Zamree bin Mohd Roslan, Fam. Med<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pharmacy Department, Klinik Kesihatan Alor Gajah, Melaka, <sup>2</sup>Pejabat Kesihatan Alor Gajah, Melaka, <sup>3</sup>Outpatient Department, Klinik Kesihatan Alor Gajah, Melaka

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The COVID-19 global pandemic has led to a rapid establishment of mass immunization program for the public. In Malaysia, the initiation of National COVID-19 immunisation programme started since February till April 2021 which focused on 500,000 frontliners. This study was sought to estimate the incidence, types and management of adverse event following immunization (AEFI) among frontliners after their first dose COVID-19 vaccination. **Methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted in Klinik Kesihatan Alor Gajah, Melaka, Malaysia from 15 Mac 2021 to 30 June 2021. Respondents were conveniently selected among frontliners during their second dose vaccination appointment. Those who consented to participate were given QR code to assess the online self-administered questionnaire. **Results:** Out of 1528 frontliners approached during the study period, 1414 of them returned the completed questionnaires, generating a response rate of 92.5%. In all 437 (31.0%) of them developed AEFI after first dose of vaccination. Most of the AEFI were localized symptoms which are pain (70%), swelling (15.2%) and redness (5.5%) at the injection site, followed by generalized symptoms such as fatigue (43.9%), dizziness (25.4%) and headache (22.5%). Only one incidence of anaphylaxis reaction was reported. Almost all AEFI were mild to moderate in severity and self-resolving which lasted for less than 3 days duration. Those with co morbidity and history of allergy had higher percentage of developing AEFI. **Conclusion:** Adverse event following COVID-19 immunization is minor and self-resolving in time. Vigorous strengthening of AEFI reporting is essential to document the real incidence of AEFI among the public.

# Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on Medication Error among Healthcare Providers in Hospital Melaka

Ong Zee Yun, MPharm. Clin.1, Lim Kit Yee, BPharm1, Lim Siok Chien, BPharm1, Siti Jannah Ibrahim, BPharm1

Department of Pharmacy, Hospital Melaka, Melaka, Malaysia

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Medication error (ME) is any preventable event that may lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm. A retrospective review of reports found that majority of the errors were from public funded hospitals. This study aimed to compare knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) on ME and ME reporting system (MERS) among professional and non-professional healthcare workers in Hospital Melaka, Malaysia and effect of years of service in Ministry of Health on it. **Methods:** Questionnaires were distributed to total number of 360 healthcare workers from January to February 2019 to assess KAP towards ME and MERS. Participants who were unwilling to participate, incomplete questionnaire and healthcare workers who were not involved in prescribing services were excluded. Professionals included pharmacists and doctors, whilst non-professionals involve nurses, pharmacist assistants, medical assistants. **Results:** Professionals had median mark (IQR) of 9(2) compared to 8(3) in non-professionals for knowledge on ME ( $p=0.008$ ). Professionals had median mark of 14(6) compared to 13(7) by non-professionals for knowledge on MERS ( $p<0.0001$ ). Professionals had median mark of 40(5) compared to 39(4) by non-professionals for attitude on ME reporting ( $p<0.001$ ). Professionals had median mark of 6(5) compared to 5(3) from non-professionals for practice on ME reporting ( $p<0.001$ ). Years of service in Ministry of Health does not affect knowledge on KAP on ME ( $p=0.869$ ), MERS ( $p=0.169$ ), attitude ( $p=0.502$ ) and practice ( $p=0.761$ ) on ME reporting significantly. **Conclusion:** We found that professional had better KAP towards ME and MERS than non-professionals. More programs should be carried out to improve awareness and importance of ME and MERS among healthcare professionals.